



IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND

DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Since 2001, the IOM Development Fund has been a unique source of funding for developing Member States to strengthen their migration management capacity. With a track record of more than 700 projects implemented across 119 countries worldwide, the Fund is successfully addressing the complexities and opportunities driven by migration. When reflecting on the history of the IOM Development Fund, two essential characteristics stand out as a testament of its value and impact.

Providing seed funding for innovative projects, the Fund also aims to foster the involvement and ownership by the governments and other relevant stakeholders. Initial endeavours are therefore strengthened, paving the way towards sustainable national development. Secondly, the essence of the Fund relies on enhancing government capacities, which in turn serve as a foundation for effective migration management. Over the past 17 years, and in countless occasions, the Fund has been the catalyst for successful long-term sustainable initiatives.

Looking back on the achievements of the IOM Development Fund, I am confident that it will contribute to address the increasing migration challenges faced by Member States and, above all, migrants.

The Spring 2018 Newsletter features 11 recent projects, which were developed and implemented in close collaboration with Member States, local partners and migrant communities. They address a wide array of objectives that range from measuring migration governance in the Dominican Republic to assisting the Government of Uganda with the establishment of a new Immigration Training Academy.

Front page caption: In response to the increasing impact of climate change in Mongolia, the project, *Climate Change and Disaster-Related Migration*, aims to provide technical assistance to tackle environmental-related challenges.

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ASIA AND OCEANIA

BUILDING A BRIGHTER BANGLADESH THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

With a population of 165 million, Bangladesh ranks fifth in the world among migrant sending countries, with over 7.5 million migrants residing overseas. Currently the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and South-East Asia receive 90 per cent of this total workforce, with the majority working in the domestic and construction sectors.



Returnees participating in a skills development training.

Bangladesh is keen to explore new markets and decent employment opportunities for its citizens. Currently, 44 per cent of Bangladeshi migrants are classified as 'less skilled' while another 16 per cent are classified as 'semi-skilled'¹. This lands them in low-paying jobs, and leaves them vulnerable to work place abuse and exploitation.

As such, "up-skilling" of the labour force is of critical importance to migrants as it will help them obtain decent work and wages, in turn increasing the likelihood of increased financial and non-financial remittances to their communities, more added value for employers and growth for both sending and destination governments; it's a "win" for everyone involved.

Acknowledging the critical need for effective up-skilling of its labour force, the Government of Bangladesh has taken significant steps to reform the country's skills development system. These include the establishment of a National Skills Development Council (NSDC) and National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) in 2011, which includes comprehensive provisions on Skills Development for Overseas Employment.

At the Government's request, IOM Bangladesh contributed to strengthening the capacity of public agencies and relevant stakeholders to implement the National Skills Development policy, in particular its provisions on overseas employment. With support from the IOM Development Fund, and together with the host Government, IOM Bangladesh initiated its first ever project on skills development for migration titled, *Enhanced Skills Development and Qualification Recognition of Labour Migrants from Bangladesh*.



National certification of skilled returnee migrants as Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) trainers and assessors.

The core objective of this project is to improve migration outcomes through more effective skills development for overseas employment. The project has commissioned two studies: the first assessed the country's capacity to support skills development and key reforms recommended in the NSDP. The second assessed labour market demand in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was followed by a government visit to Saudi Arabia to meet with officials from relevant state authorities.

Based on these two studies, the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE), developed an action plan to guide their skills development and migration management activities over the next five years. This action plan includes steps to ensure worker safety and welfare, enhance overseas employment opportunities and raise the level of skills among migrant workers.

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The Action Plan for Skills Development and Migration Management will complement BMET's relentless efforts to improve skills upgrading and skills recognition initiatives to meet the demands of the international labour market.

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Salim Reza,
Director General, Bureau of Manpower,
Employment and Training

This project also supported the Government in setting up a Skills for Migration Forum to facilitate stakeholder cooperation. A partnership with the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) led to the training and certification of twelve skilled returnee migrants as Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) trainers and assessors. Many of them are now working as BTEB assessors in addition to their regular jobs and some have joined technical training institutes to serve as trainers.

This project inter alia directly contributes to the advancement of several targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including: Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship; Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment, and 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Moreover, the project also enabled the Government of Bangladesh in the Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG) on Skills and Qualification Recognition to showcase its experience, concrete initiatives, and research with other Member States.

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Migration is an important driver of the nation's growth. We need to ensure that our policies and practices serve to empower our migrants to harness the benefits of migration. IOM will support the Government of Bangladesh to create opportunities for migrants to improve their skills and certification so they may live a dignified life abroad.

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Mr Abdusattor Esoev,
Deputy Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh



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After completing a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, I left the country to work in the construction sector in Dubai and Qatar. Upon returning to Bangladesh, I got a job at KIOSK Consultants and Construction as Deputy General Manager which earned me a good amount but I wanted to do something more to help my country. I took the training to become a trainer and assessor for the BTEB with support from IOM. On off days, I now support BTEB as an assessor and I feel proud to serve the nation by helping build a skilled generation.

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Mohammad Harun-Or-Rashid,
Skilled returnee migrant

PRIMA Project Information and Management Application

PRIMA is a Project Information and Management Application that captures and stores key IOM Development Fund project data and documents throughout the project life cycle in order to facilitate project monitoring and reporting; facilitate the project workflow and approval process involving relevant stakeholders from Country Offices, the Regional Offices, the Administrative Centres and Headquarters; and enhance access to data and reports on specific projects and information on the IOM Development Fund.

By the end of 2017, all IOM Development Fund projects, including recent concept notes and project proposals, had been migrated into PRIMA – a total of 684 entries. In total, 105 IOM offices (including Regional Offices) use PRIMA to develop and review these initiatives.

With the development of the "PRIMA for All" system in parallel with the operationalization of PRIMA for the IOM Development Fund, the IOM Development Fund Unit has been able to share the lessons learned from its roll-out of the system, feed its requirements into the Organization-wide system and assist with the testing of that system.

PRIMA is proving to be very beneficial for reporting purposes, for reminding project managers of deadlines to be met and for keeping track of project implementation.

It is also useful for staff members who are new to an office and who need to quickly access all relevant documentation and the latest updates on the status of a project.

Similarly, Regional Offices can monitor the implementation of activities through PRIMA in preparation for on-site evaluations, without the need to request relevant documentation by email.

Updates on the development and roll out of the PRIMA system were provided in previous reports submitted to the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of PRIMA. Should you have any questions, please email:

PRIMAHelpdesk@iom.int.

The IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND supports developing Member States in the development and implementation of joint government–IOM projects to address particular areas of migration management. Since its inception in 2001, the Fund has supported over 700 projects in various areas of IOM activity and has benefited over 120 Member States.



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